

Remarks/Arguments

As of the Action, Claims 1-12 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 12 are objected to.

Applicant herein amends Claims 1, 4, 6 and 11. Applicant has so amended the Claims in order to (a) remove reference numerals/letters, so as to bring the claims into compliance with U.S. practice, and (b) clarify that the electric iron comprises, among other elements, "detection means for non-thermally detecting the presence of a surface in the proximity of the soleplate".

Applicant also herein amends by canceling Claims 7 and 8. Applicant has cancelled those claims toward moving this Application promptly to completion.

Applicant also herein amends by adding new claims 13-16. Claim 13 claims consistent with U.S. practice (i.e., having a preamble, a "comprising" term, and a list of elements/limitations, including arrangement(s) thereamong, e.g., omitting any "characterized in that" clause). Claim 13 uses "ironing substance" to recite the variety substances (e.g., steam, liquid, foam, water, etc.) that would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art via the disclosures of the Application. Claim 13 also claims using "provision means", which means is differentiated Claim 16 to comprise both a generating means and a delivering means, in accordance with one example embodiment of the Application.

Applicant submits that these amendments add no new matter.

Applicant notes that the Claims, as amended, include two (2) independent claims and sixteen (16) total claims. As such, no excess claims fees are due.

Applicant further notes that this Amendment and Response is being filed within the three month shortened statutory period and, as such, no extension of time is required. However, if any such extension of time is determined to be required, this shall serve as a request for any such required extension, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136.

In view of the Claims as set forth above and the remarks below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of this Application.

Allowable Claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's holding of allowable subject matter.

In responding to this non-final Action, Applicant respectfully declines to rewrite the indicated Claims. Applicant notes that such rewrite would require immediate payment of substantial excess claims fees, i.e., based on increasing the number of independent claims.

Toward avoiding such fees at this time, Applicant seeks to revisit (below) the rejection of independent Claim 1, as amended.

Rejection of Claims as Anticipated. The Action rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Netten et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,642,579 ("Netten").

Applicant respectfully notes the Examiner's observation that Netten detects "the presence of an article being ironed by detecting the temperature of the article". That is, Netten is observed to detect via "thermal" detection.

By contrast, Applicant's Claim 1 recites an electric iron that comprises "detection means for non-thermally detecting the presence of a surface in the proximity of the soleplate". As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Netten.

As well, Applicant submits that Claims 4, 6, and 11 are also not anticipated, i.e., because each such Claim depends ultimately from, and thereby includes the non-thermal detection of, independent Claim 1.

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CONCLUSION

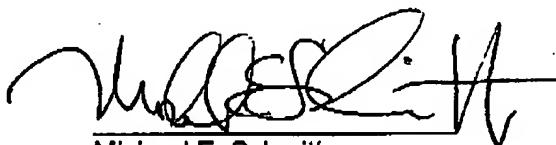
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing remarks and/or amendments, the Claims pending in the Application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action.

Generally, in this Amendment and Response, Applicant has not raised all possible grounds for (a) traversing the rejections of the Action or (b) patentably distinguishing the new Claims (i.e., over the Cited References or otherwise). Applicant, however, reserves the right to explicate and expand on any ground already raised and/or to raise other grounds for traversing and/or for distinguishing, including, without limitation, by explaining and/or distinguishing the subject matter of the Application and/or any cited reference at a later time (e.g., in the event that this Application does not proceed to issue with the Claims as herein amended, or in the context of a continuing application). Applicant submits that nothing herein is, or should be deemed to be, a disclaimer of any rights, acquiescence in any rejection, or a waiver of any arguments that might have been raised but were not raised herein, or otherwise in the prosecution of this Application, whether as to the original Claims or as to any of the new Claims, or otherwise. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce one or more of the original Claims in original form or otherwise so as to claim the subject matter of those Claims, both/either at a later time in prosecuting this Application or in the context of a continuing application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including extension fees, or to charge any additional fees or underpayments, or to credit any overpayments, to the Credit Card account referenced on any accompanying Credit Card Payment form (PTO-2038). As an alternative, in case the Credit Card cannot be processed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, additional fees, or underpayments, to the undersigned attorney's

Deposit Account No. 50-1001; provided, however, that such fees, underpayments or overpayments must arise solely in connection with this Amendment and Response. Otherwise, the Commissioner should review and follow any authorization previously given by Applicant to charge certain such fees and credit certain such overpayments to the Applicant's separate Deposit Account (No. 14-1270).

Respectfully submitted,



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